

Appl. No. 10/720,980
Amdt. Dated September 9, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 23, 2005

Attorney Docket No. 81788.0262
Customer No.: 26021

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated May 23, 2005. The time for responding to the outstanding Office Action has been extended by one month. Claims 3-6 and 8-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 4 and 19 are rewritten to stand as independent claims. Other amendments are made consistent with the amendments to claims 4 and 19. The Examiner has indicated that claims 4 and 19, the only independent claims in this application, present allowable subject matter. Applicant submits that the present claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Office Action objected to the phrase "in series" as used in claim 1. Applicant's amendments to claims 4 and 19 do not include the language objected to by the Examiner.

In rewriting claims 4 and 19, applicant has replaced the language "the second reference voltage source" with the phrase "the gate of the second switching element." This amendment is not made for purposes of patentability.

The Office Action indicates that prior claims 4 and 19 present allowable subject matter. Applicant has rewritten claims 4 and 19 to stand in independent form. Applicant submits that claims 4 and 19 and dependent claims 3, 5-6, 8-18 and 20, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 4, distinguish over the art of record and are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los

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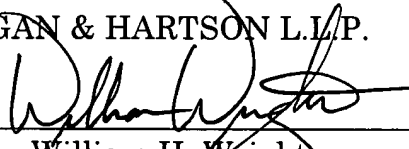
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Angeles, California telephone number (310) 789-5100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: September 9, 2005

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